

## HEALTHCARE INTERPRETATIONS TASK FORCE INTERPRETATION

**Number:** HITF.1999.004

**Date:** November 16, 1999

**Code:** NFPA 101, 1997 Edition; Section 13-5.4.1; NFPA 82, 1994 Edition; Section 3-2.2.4.

**Background:** One state agency has been mandating the four foot extension on linen chutes that is required in NFPA 82, Section 3-2.2.4, be provided for existing chutes. NFPA 101, Section 13-5.4.1 requires compliance with NFPA 82 for any new chutes that may be installed in existing healthcare facilities.

**Question:** Is it the intent of NFPA 101, Section 13-5.4.1 to require existing chutes, that are not otherwise being altered or replaced, to comply with the four foot extension rule that is contained in NFPA 82, Section 3-2.2.4?

**Answer:** NO. The language of NFPA 101 is very clear that it only requires compliance with NFPA 82 (via the reference to NFPA 101, Section 7-5) for new chutes. In addition, NFPA 82, Sections 1-3.1 and 1-3.2 apply the standard to new construction and allows exiting chutes to remain without be altered. NFPA 101, Sections 1-3.4, 1-3.8 and 7-5.2, exception, support this conclusion as does the general statement (specifically the last sentence) contained in NFPA 101, Section 33-1. This last statement describes the intended use of the referenced documents contained in NFPA 101.